

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently amended)** A fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, comprising
an injector body (2), which has at least one first injection orifice (3) and at least one
second injection orifice (4),

a first nozzle needle (7) that is embodied as a hollow needle and is guided in a first
needle guide (6) of the injector body (2),

a second nozzle needle (9) disposed coaxial to the first nozzle needle (7) **and guided
in a second needle guide (8) within the first nozzle needle (7),**

the first nozzle needle (7) being driven to control the injection of fuel through the at
least one first injection orifice (3) and the second nozzle needle (9) being driven to control the
injection of fuel through the at least one second injection orifice (4),

a first catch contour (19) embodied on the first nozzle needle (7) **and,**

a second catch contour (20) embodied on the second nozzle needle (9), whereby once
the first nozzle needle (7) opens a predetermined preliminary stroke (24), the first catch

contour (19) cooperates with the second catch contour (20) and when an opening movement of the first nozzle needle (7) exceeds the preliminary stroke (24), carries the second nozzle needle (9) along with it, and

a sealing seat (16) of the second nozzle needle disposed between the at least one first injection orifice (3) and the at least one second injection orifice (4), wherein a cross-sectional area of the sealing seat (16) is the same as a cross-sectional area of the second needle guide.

15. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 14, further comprising a first leakage chamber (45) and wherein the catch contours (19, 20) cooperate with each other in the first leakage chamber (45).

16. **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Currently amended)** A fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector body (2), which has at least one first injection orifice (3) and at least one second injection orifice (4),
a first nozzle needle (7) that is embodied as a hollow needle and is guided in a

first needle guide (6) of the injector body (2),

a second nozzle needle (9) disposed coaxial to the first nozzle needle (7),

the first nozzle needle (7) being driven to control the injection of fuel through the
at least one first injection orifice (3) and the second nozzle needle (9) being driven to
control the injection of fuel through the at least one second injection orifice (4),

a first catch contour (19) embodied on the first nozzle needle (7) and

a second catch contour (20) embodied on the second nozzle needle (9), whereby
once the first nozzle needle (7) opens a predetermined preliminary stroke (24), the first
catch contour (19) cooperates with the second catch contour (20) and when an opening
movement of the first nozzle needle (7) exceeds the preliminary stroke (24), carries the
second nozzle needle (9) along with it ~~The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein ,~~

further comprising drive means driving the first nozzle needle (7), the drive means including

a compensation chamber (30)

a first control chamber (34)

a second control chamber (36) communicating with the first control chamber (34)

a booster piston (28) having a first surface (29) in the compensator chamber (30) that
acts in the closing direction when subjected to pressure and a second surface (33) that acts in
the opening direction when subjected to pressure,

a supply line (25) that supplies highly pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4),
the compensation chamber (30) communicating with the supply line (25), and

an actuating piston (38) having a third surface (37) in the second control chamber
(36).

19. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 15, ~~wherein~~ further comprising drive means driving the first nozzle needle (7), the drive means including

- a compensation chamber (30)
- a first control chamber (34)
- a second control chamber (36) communicating with the first control chamber (34)
- a booster piston (28) having a first surface (29) in the compensator chamber (30) that acts in the closing direction when subjected to pressure and a second surface (33) that acts in the opening direction when subjected to pressure,
- a supply line (25) that supplies highly pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4), the compensation chamber (30) communicating with the supply line (25), and
- an actuating piston (38) having a third surface (37) in the second control chamber (36).

20. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 18, wherein

- the booster piston (28) and the first needle (7) constitute a unit that is driven into a shared stroke motion, and wherein
- the first catch contour (19) is provided on the booster piston (28).

21. (Currently amended) A fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, comprising
an injector body (2), which has at least one first injection orifice (3) and at least
one second injection orifice (4),
a first nozzle needle (7) that is embodied as a hollow needle and is guided in a
first needle guide (6) of the injector body (2),
a second nozzle needle (9) disposed coaxial to the first nozzle needle (7),
the first nozzle needle (7) being driven to control the injection of fuel through the
at least one first injection orifice (3) and the second nozzle needle (9) being driven to
control the injection of fuel through the at least one second injection orifice (4),
a first catch contour (19) embodied on the first nozzle needle (7) and
a second catch contour (20) embodied on the second nozzle needle (9), whereby once the
first nozzle needle (7) opens a predetermined preliminary stroke (24), the first catch
contour (19) cooperates with the second catch contour (20) and when an opening
movement of the first nozzle needle (7) exceeds the preliminary stroke (24), carries the
second nozzle needle (9) along with it .~~The fuel injector according to claim 14,~~ further
comprising means driving the first nozzle needle (7), including a booster piston (51) having a
first surface (52) in a first booster chamber (53), the first surface (52) that acting in the
closing direction when subjected to pressure, a ~~second~~ leakage chamber (55), and
a first spring (54) in the ~~second~~ leakage chamber (55) and pressing the booster piston in the
opening direction.

22. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 21, wherein the booster piston (51), comprising at least one bore (57) via which the **second** leakage chamber (55) communicates with the first leakage chamber (45).

23. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 21, further comprising
a control piston (61) having a forward stroke surface (62) in a control chamber (63)
and **the a** return stroke surface (60) in a second booster chamber (59),
the control chamber (63) communicating with a supply line (25) that supplies highly
pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4),
the return stroke surface (60) and the forward stroke surface (62) being disposed at
opposite ends of the control piston (61),
the control piston (61) separating the control chamber (63) from the second booster
chamber (59), and
the first booster chamber (53) communicating with the second booster chamber (59).

24. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 22, further comprising
a control piston (61) having a forward stroke surface (62) in a control chamber (63)
and **the a** return stroke surface (60) in a second booster chamber (59),
the control chamber (63) communicating with a supply line (25) that supplies highly
pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4),

the return stroke surface (60) and the forward stroke surface (62) being disposed at opposite ends of the control piston (61),

the control piston (61) separating the control chamber (63) from the second booster chamber (59), and

the first booster chamber (53) communicating with the second booster chamber (59).

25. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ a control chamber (63) communicates with ~~the~~ a second booster chamber (59) via a throttle path (66).

26. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 22, wherein ~~the~~ a control chamber (63) communicates with ~~the~~ a second booster chamber (59) via a throttle path (66).

27. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injector according to claim 23, wherein ~~the~~ a control chamber (63) communicates with ~~the~~ a second booster chamber (59) via a throttle path (66).

28. **(Currently amended)** A fuel injector for an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector body (2), which has at least one first injection orifice (3) and at least one second injection orifice (4),

a first nozzle needle (7) that is embodied as a hollow needle and is guided in a first needle guide (6) of the injector body (2),

a second nozzle needle (9) disposed coaxial to the first nozzle needle (7),
the first nozzle needle (7) being driven to control the injection of fuel through the
at least one first injection orifice (3) and the second nozzle needle (9) being driven to
control the injection of fuel through the at least one second injection orifice (4),
a first catch contour (19) embodied on the first nozzle needle (7) and
a second catch contour (20) embodied on the second nozzle needle (9), whereby once the
first nozzle needle (7) opens a predetermined preliminary stroke (24), the first catch
contour (19) cooperates with the second catch contour (20) and when an opening
movement of the first nozzle needle (7) exceeds the preliminary stroke (24), carries the
second nozzle needle (9) along with it .~~The fuel injector according to claim 14~~, further
comprising a booster piston (68) for driving the first nozzle needle (7), the booster piston (68)
having a first surface (69) in a control chamber (70), the first surface (69) acting in the closing
direction when subjected to pressure, and
a control piston (72) having a control surface (75) in the control chamber (70) and is
driven by an actuator (74) to enlarge the volume in the control chamber (70).

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 28, wherein the control
piston (72) is guided coaxially inside the booster piston (68).

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 28, wherein

the control chamber (70) is supplied from a filling chamber (78) that communicates with a supply line (25) that supplies highly pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4), and wherein the control chamber (70) communicates with the filling chamber (78) via a throttle path (81).

31. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 29, wherein

the control chamber (70) is supplied from a filling chamber (78) that communicates with a supply line (25) that supplies highly pressurized fuel to the injection orifices (3, 4), and wherein the control chamber (70) communicates with the filling chamber (78) via a throttle path (81).

32. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 28, wherein the second nozzle needle (9) is prestressed in the closing direction by a second spring (50), one end of which rests against the second nozzle needle (9) the other end of which rests against a supporting end (85) of the control piston (72) oriented away from the control surface (75).

33. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injector according to claim 30, wherein the second nozzle needle (9) is prestressed in the closing direction by a second spring (50), one end of which rests against the second nozzle needle (9) the other end of which rests against a supporting end (85) of the control piston (72) oriented away from the control surface (75).